

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and discussion presented herein.

1. Allowance/Allowability of Claims.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claims 99-104.

The Applicant also notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 29, 63, 81, 86, 87, 97 and 98 would be allowable is rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the Applicant

(a) has made the following amendments:

Claim 28 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 29, and Claim 29 has been canceled. Dependent Claims 30-54 are now allowable since they depend from Claim 28.

Claim 55 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 63, and Claim 63 has been canceled. Dependent Claims 56-62 and 64-80 are now allowable since they depend from Claim 55.

Claim 81 has been amended into independent form by incorporating the limitations of Claim 1. Claims 82-85 are now allowable since they depend from Claim 81.

Claim 86 has been amended into independent form by incorporating the limitations of Claim 1.

Claim 87 has been amended into independent form by incorporating the limitations of Claim 1.

Claim 88 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 97, and Claim 97 has been canceled. Claims 89-96 are now allowable since they depend from Claim 88.

Claim 89 has been amended into independent form by incorporating the limitations of Claim 88 prior to amendment.

(b) has canceled Claims 1-22 and 105-123.

2. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 23, 28 and 76 were rejected for reciting "said etched portion" without sufficient antecedent basis. Claim 23 has been canceled; therefore, the rejection is moot as to that claim. Claim 28 did not contain the referenced language, but the language could be found in Claim 50. Therefore, the Applicant has amended Claim 50 to provide antecedent basis. The Applicant has also amended Claim 76 in a manner similar to the amendment of Claim 76.

Claim 89 was rejected as a result of lack of clarity of the phrase "configured to be structurally stable during etching." In response, the Applicant has deleted that language.

3. Objection to Claims 82 and 83.

Claims 82 and 83 were objected to as being the same as Claims 13 and 14. Since Claims 13 and 14 have been canceled, the rejection is now moot.

4. Rejection of Claims Based on Prior Art.

The rejection of claims based on prior art is moot in view of the above. The Applicant has responded in this manner to expedite prosecution, and does not waive or disclaim the subject matter of any of the canceled claims or claims prior to amendment. Nor does the Applicant waive any right to pursue any of the canceled or amended claims in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

5. Conclusion.

In view of the above, Claims 28, 30-62, 64-96 and 98 are in a condition for allowance. Claims 99-104 are already allowed. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

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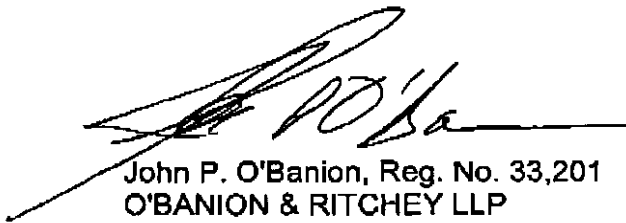
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The Applicant also respectfully requests a telephone interview with the Examiner in the event that there are questions regarding this response, or if the next action on the merits is not an allowance of all pending claims.

Date: 5/20/04

Respectfully submitted,



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